

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (**cancelled**).

Claim 2 (**previously presented**): The device of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein the flood space includes a clearance area between the liner and torque tube.

Claim 3 (**previously presented**): The device of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein the torque tube is a coiled drive shaft and the flood space includes gaps between the coils.

Claim 4 (**previously presented**): The device of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein the torque tube includes a lumen for a guide wire and the flood space includes the lumen.

Claim 5 (**previously presented**): The device of claim 19 or 20, further comprising a suction port for aspirating fluid from the aspiration lumen and wherein the pressure in the flood space is lower than the pressure outside or proximal to the flood space during operation of the device.

Claims 6-9 (**cancelled**).

Claim 10 (**previously presented**): The device of claim 20, wherein the sealing assembly comprises an overflow port for exit of excess liquid and wherein the torque tube extends through the overflow port.

Claims 11 -15 (**cancelled**).

Claim 16 (**currently amended**): The device of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, further ~~including~~ comprising a drive system coupled to the torque tube to rotate the torque tube.

Claim 17 (**previously presented**): The device of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein proximal portions of the rotatable torque tube and liner are positioned in a hand held unit.

**Claim 18 (currently amended)** An intracorporeal medical device having a rotatable torque tube and a sealing assembly for creating a liquid seal around the torque tube during operation of the device, the sealing assembly comprising a housing enclosing at least a portion of the torque tube in a manner that permits free rotation and axial translation of the torque tube, the housing including an infusion port providing a sealing liquid; and a liner surrounding the rotatable torque tube in the area of the infusion port and extending longitudinally less than the axial length of the torque tube in a distal direction from the infusion port, the liner forming a flood space ~~within~~ between the inner surface of the liner and the torque tube, whereby the sealing liquid enters the flood space and prevents air from entering the space external to the torque tube during operation of the device.

**Claim 19 (currently amended):** An aspirating catheter device having a liquid seal assembly for creating a liquid seal in a medical device, the aspirating catheter system comprising: a torque tube operably connected to a drive system for rotation; a liner surrounding the rotatable torque tube to form a liquid flood space between the liner and the torque tube, the liner extending longitudinally less than the axial length of the torque tube and terminating distally at an intersect area; a catheter enclosing the torque tube and the liner, wherein the catheter extends and extending distally beyond the intersect area with respect to an operator of the device~~[[,]]~~ the ~~catheter forming and forms~~ an aspiration lumen between the catheter and the liner; whereby liquid drawn into the flood space during operation of the catheter system exits the flood space at the intersect area and enters the aspiration lumen.

**Claim 20 (currently amended):** A medical device comprising: a rotatable torque tube operably connected to a drive system for rotation; ~~and~~ a liner surrounding the torque tube and forming a flood space extending longitudinally from a sealing assembly along at least a portion of the torque tube to a distal terminal end of the liner at an intersect area; a catheter enclosing at least a portion of the torque tube and the liner and forming an aspiration lumen between the catheter and the liner, the catheter enclosing the ~~intersect area~~ distal terminal end of the liner; and a sealing

assembly in communication with an infusion port providing application of liquid to the flood space during operation of the device.

Claim 21 (**currently amended**): ~~[[A]]~~ The device of claim 19 or 20, wherein pressure within the flood space decreases along the length of the liner in a distal direction during operation of the device.

Claim 22 (**currently amended**): ~~[[A]]~~ The device of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein the inner diameter of the liner is from about 0.030 to about 0.040 inch.

Claim 23 (**currently amended**): ~~[[A]]~~ The device of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein the length of the liner is more than about 6 inches.

Claim 24 (**currently amended**): ~~[[A]]~~ The device of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein the liner comprises a thin, tough, flexible polymer-based tubing material.

Claim 25 (**currently amended**): ~~[[A]]~~ The device of claim 24, wherein the liner comprises polyimide tubing and has a lubricious coating.

Claim 26 (**currently amended**): ~~[[A]]~~ The device of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein proximal portions of the torque tube and liner are positioned in a housing in a manner that permits free rotation and axial translation of the torque tube.

Claim 27 (**currently amended**): ~~[[A]]~~ The device ~~according to~~ of any one of claims 18, 19 and 20, wherein the length and diameter of the liner forming the flood space are selected to reduce the rate of flow in the proximal to distal direction in the flood space and reduce the requirement for precise diametrical tolerances during operation of the device.